

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims**

1. (previously presented): A welding system, comprising:

a cable electrically coupleable to a power source;

a member secured to the cable; and

a handle, comprising:

a first recess operable to receive the member therein in a first direction relative to the handle, wherein the first recess is adapted to restrict movement of the member relative to the handle; and

a second recess operable to receive the member therein in a second direction relative to the handle, the second orientation being opposite the first direction, wherein the second recess is adapted to restrict movement of the member relative to the handle.

2. (original): The system as recited in claim 1, comprising:

a neck; and

an operating switch secured to the handle to control operation of the system,

wherein the handle is adapted to enable the operating switch to be positioned on the handle adjacent to the neck in a first configuration and positioned on the handle adjacent to the cable in a second configuration.

3. (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the handle is substantially straight and has a first end, a second end opposite the first end, and a gripping portion that increases in cross-sectional area in each direction towards the first and second ends.

4. (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 1, comprising a wire feeder electrically coupleable to the power source and adapted to advance electrode wire through the cable.

5. (currently amended): A welding system, comprising:

~~an electrical power source;~~

a welding cable coupled to the coupleable to an electrical power source; and

a welding handle ~~coupleable~~ secured to the welding cable, comprising:

a first end;

a second end opposite the first end; and

a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion increases in cross-sectional area from a first location between the first and second ends in each direction towards to approximately the first and second ends.

6. (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the welding handle is substantially straight ~~system is a MIG welding system.~~

7. (original): The system as recited in claim 5, wherein each end of the welding handle is operable to receive the welding cable.

8. (original): The system as recited in claim 5, comprising a wire feeder operable to feed electrode wire through the welding cable.

9. (previously presented): A configurable handle for an arc welding system, comprising:

a first receiving portion operable to capture a multi-faceted member of a welding cable with the welding cable oriented in a first direction relative to the handle; and

a second receiving portion operable to capture the multi-faceted member of the welding cable with the welding cable oriented in a second direction relative to the handle.

10. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, wherein the handle comprises a plurality of handle pieces, each handle piece having a first and a second receiving region that is adapted to cooperate with a corresponding handle piece to form the first and second receiving portions, respectively, when the plurality of handle pieces are secured together.

11. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, comprising a trigger switch, wherein the handle is adapted to enable the trigger switch to be disposed on each end of the handle.

12. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, wherein the handle increases in cross-sectional area from a portion between each end of the handle towards each end of the handle.

13. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, comprising a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion has a generally oval-shaped cross-section.

14. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, comprising a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion has a generally teardrop-shaped cross-section.

15. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, wherein the handle generally is straight.

16. (currently amended): A handle for a welding system, comprising:  
a first end;  
a second end opposite the first end, and

a gripping portion between the first and second ends,  
wherein the handle increases in cross-sectional area in each direction from a location approximately midpoint of the gripping portion in each direction towards to the first and second ends.

17. (original): The handle as recited in claim 16, wherein the gripping portion has a generally oval-shaped cross-section.

18. (original): The handle as recited in claim 16, wherein the gripping portion has a generally teardrop-shaped cross-section.

19. (currently amended): The handle as recited in claim 16, wherein the handle is curved to less than 32 degrees substantially relative to an axis through the handle.

20. (previously presented): The handle as recited in claim 16, wherein the handle has a minimum perimeter length around the gripping portion of 4.4 inches.

21. (original): The handle as recited in claim 16, wherein the handle has a length of 6.38 inches to 9.50 inches.

22. (original): The handle as recited in claim 21, comprising a trigger, wherein the trigger has a length of 1.25 inches to 1.50 inches.

23. (previously presented): The handle as recited in claim 16, wherein the handle has a perimeter length around the gripping portion of 4.2 inches to 4.6 inches.

24. (original): A welding handle piece, comprising:

a first and a second receiving portion adapted to capture a welding cable connector when secured to a corresponding welding handle piece, each receiving portion being located at an opposite end of the welding handle piece.

25. (original): The welding handle piece as recited in claim 24, wherein the receiving portions are oriented to capture the welding cable from opposite directions.

26. (currently amended): A welding handle piece for a welding handle, comprising:

a first end portion;

a second end portion; and

a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion is adapted to cooperate with a corresponding welding handle piece to increase cross-sectional area of the handle from a location between the first and second end portions in each direction towards ~~to~~ the first and second end portions.

27. (previously presented): A method of assembling a configurable welding gun, comprising the acts of:

selecting one of a first and a second end of a configurable welding handle for placement of an operating switch in relation to a neck of the configurable welding handle;

disposing the operating switch in one of a first handle piece and a second handle piece adapted to capture a welding cable member at each of the first and second ends of the configurable welding handle;

disposing a welding cable coupleable to the neck within one of the first and second handle pieces such that the operating switch is oriented at the selected end of the configurable welding handle when the neck is coupled to the welding cable; and

securing the first handle piece to the second handle piece.

28. (original): The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising the act of coupling the neck to the welding cable.

29. (original): The method as recited in claim 28, wherein coupling comprises securing the neck directly to the welding cable.

30. (original): A configurable welding gun for an arc welding system, comprising:  
a handle securable to a welding cable;  
a neck, and  
a trigger securable to the handle, wherein the handle is adapted to enable the trigger to be positioned in each of four quadrants of the handle relative to the neck.

31. (original): The welding gun as recited in claim 30, wherein the trigger is securable to the handle in a first location and the handle is operable to be secured to the welding cable in a plurality of orientations such that the first location is positionable to each of the four quadrants.

32. (previously presented): A welding gun for an arc welding system, comprising:

a first handle piece;  
a second handle piece;  
a trigger to control operation of a welding system, the first and second handle pieces being adapted to receive the trigger; and  
a neck operable to direct a flow of gas therethrough, the first and second handle pieces being positionable relative to the neck to enable the position of the trigger on the welding handle to be varied from a first position to a second position, the second position being directly opposite the first position.

wherein the first and second handle pieces are adapted to be gripped by a hand oriented in a constant orientation relative to the neck with the trigger in both the first and second positions.

33. (previously presented): The welding gun as recited in claim 32, wherein the second position is vertical relative to the first position.

34. (currently amended): A welding handle for an arc welding system, comprising:

a handle that increases in cross-sectional area between a first cross-section and a second cross-section of the handle; and

a trigger securable to the handle portion,

wherein the handle is adapted to be gripped by a user in a first orientation at a desired cross-sectional area between the first and second cross-sections to enable the user to operate the trigger with by placing a finger on the trigger and to be gripped by a user in a second orientation at the desired cross-sectional area to enable the user to operate the trigger with one of a thumb and the palm of a hand by placing the one of a thumb and the palm of a hand on the trigger.

35. (currently amended): A welding implement , comprising:

a handle portion securable to a welding cable and adapted to direct the welding cable linearly along an axis through the handle portion, the handle portion having a varying cross-sectional area adapted to enable a user to grip the handle portion at a plurality of cross-sectional areas; and

a trigger switch secured to the handle portion,

wherein the handle portion is adapted to be gripped by a hand in a first orientation and a second orientation relative to the hand, the handle portion being rotated 180 degrees about the axis from the first to the second orientation.

36. (previously presented): The welding handle as recited in claim 35, wherein the handle portion is adapted to be gripped with the trigger oriented both toward a palm of the hand and away from the palm of the hand.